

Climate change minister ‘spins’ CDA’s act of chopping trees in capital

Claims 29,000 allergy causing trees have been cut; CDA starts early tree-plantation drive in unfavourable weather

By Jamal Shahid

ISLAMABAD: Amid public outcry over chopping of thousands of grown-up trees in Islamabad, Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadiq Malik on Friday claimed that around 29,000 paper mulberry trees had been cut down in the capital city in line with the court’s order. “Paper mulberry trees, which are a major cause of allergies and have caused deaths among chronic asthma patients, have been chopped following Supreme Court’s orders which were issued in 2023. In 2025, the order was again implemented to rid the city of this invasive species which is not indigenous and is life threatening,” said Dr Malik while talking in a TV talk show after pre- siding over a meeting on the issue. “It is planned not to plant non- indigenous species,” said the minis-

ter, adding: “One tree chopped is being replaced with three new sap- lings/trees in the capital city”. The meeting was held in the wake of widespread criticism on the authorities in the media over cut- ting of thousands of grown-up trees in different locations of the capital city, including the leveling of acres of tree cover around Shakarparian. Recently, thousands of trees were chopped in Islamabad’s three areas – Shakarparian, H-8 and Chak Shahzad. In Shakarparian, at least four patches have been turned into almost a desert, where citizens stated that besides paper mulberry, other trees had also been cut down. However, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has been stating that only paper mulberry was removed. A number of trees have been cut in H-8 area where a park is being upgraded while cutting of decades- old trees took place in Chak Shahzad for the construction of a dual car- riageway for the CDA-DHA housing society. The minister said that paper mul- berry were non-indigenous trees planted in the 1960s. According to him, the felling of trees was planned after confirming from Ministry of Health that paper mulberries are a major health concern.



CDA workers plant saplings on a green belt at Shakarparian in Islamabad on Friday. — Online

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the ministry said the minister was briefed on the ongoing campaign aimed at reducing the number of non-native paper mulberry trees in Islamabad. The minister reviewed and dis- cussed measures for environmental protection and preservation of green cover in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, CDA Chairman Mohammad Ali Randhawa,

Secretary Climate Change Aisha Moriana and senior representatives from the CDA, Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) and others. It was stated that paper mulberry was an allergenic species and a major contributor to severe allergies and asthma-related health issues among residents of the fed- eral capital. The campaign focused on the selective removal of paper mulberry trees in areas where their

concentration exceeded 90 per cent such as Shakarparian, F-9 Park and along H-8 and H-9 sectors, and replacing them with native, fruit- bearing trees and pine species. The minister was informed that to safeguard Islamabad’s green cover, plans were underway to plant more trees against every tree removed under the campaign, ensuring that the city’s overall tree cover was not reduced. The statement said plans for plan- tation included installation of mature native trees to accelerate ecological recovery. The meeting also discussed the need for enhanced coordination among EPA, CDA and the Ministry of Climate Change to ensure timely plantation activities during the upcoming spring season. Emphasis was placed on synchronised planning and exec- ution to maximise environmental and public health benefits. Dr Malik stressed the importance of streamlining processes and strengthening communication among relevant ministries, environ- mental protection agencies such as EPA and IWMB and CDA. He directed that a transparent, well- defined and streamlined mecha- nism be developed to ensure full compliance with existing laws, rules, and procedures related to

permissions and licensing for such environmental campaigns. Interestingly, when the official handout talked about cutting of trees in various sectors, it has no mention of the cutting of trees along Park Road at Chak Shahzad. **Tree plantation** Interestingly, in an apparent move to counter the ongoing criti- cism, the CDA has started a tree plantation campaign in January, which is otherwise known for frost and not ideal for plantation. In the past, the CDA used to start tree plantation around mid-Febru- ary. However, this time around it has started the campaign more than a month earlier in Shakarparian area – a step which is being criti- cised by public on social media, stat- ing that nowhere trees are planted in January as Islamabad faces due and frost in this month. The CDA officials, on the other hand, are stating that only those species are being planted which sur- vive in January, such as Chir Pine. They said this campaign, in which 30,000 trees would be planted, would get momentum next month.

— Kashif Abbasi also contributed to the report

AJK doctors warn of strike from 26th for long-pending demands

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: United Doctors Forum (UDF) — an umbrella organisation of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) and the Young Doctors Association (YDA) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) — on Friday warned the government of a state- wide protest from Jan 26 if their “long-pending and legitimate” demands were not accepted. The warning was issued by UDF Chairman Dr Wajid Khan and General Secretary Dr Arshad Raja — who also serve as heads of the PMA and YDA, respectively — at a press conference here. They were flanked by other office-bearers, including Dr Waqar Butt, Dr Basharat Hayat, Dr Aamir Ikram, Dr Raja Imtiaz and Dr Bilal Ahmed. Lamenting that years of delays had paralysed the health system and demoralised medical profes- sionals, they said doctors had long shown restraint and exhausted all constitutional, legal and demo- cratic forums for redress. “Unfortunately, instead of being resolved, our issues are being fur- ther complicated and decisions are repeatedly deferred,” Dr Khan said, adding that such delays had pushed the healthcare system into uncertainty. The UDF leaders alleged that the promotion mechanism in the health department had completely collapsed, with promotion cases pending since 2019, resulting in several doctors retiring without promotions. According to them, a committee

headed by the chief secretary had failed to convene even one effective meeting over the past three years, reflecting “serious adminis- trative failure and lack of govern- ance.” The continued absence of a per- manent director general of health had emerged as a major issue, they said, maintaining that the depart- ment could not be run on an addi- tional-charge basis. “If a regular DG is not appointed, doctors, as key stakeholders, will resist any such arrangement,” they warned. The UDF leaders also expressed strong concern over the non-pay- ment of financial benefits and allowances to doctors since June 2022, despite a clear Supreme Court verdict. They said a notifica- tion issued in Feb 2025 was con- trary to the court’s ruling and amounted to “open injustice”. Highlighting infrastructural shortcomings, they said govern- ment hospitals across AJK were facing an acute shortage of medical facilities and modern equipment. Medical machines installed in 2009 were still in use in 2026 despite having exceeded their operational life. They described the presence of only one MRI machine in the entire region as “deeply alarming”. Referring to medical colleges, they said key positions such as prin- cipals had been rendered ineffec- tive, Poonch Medical College was functioning in a dilapidated condi- tion, and despite the approval of the PC-I for Mirpur Medical College, construction work was pro- gressing at a “painfully slow” pace, adversely affecting academic standards.

The UDF leaders also raised con- cerns over security threats to women doctors and paramedical staff, incidents of physical violence in hospitals, one-sided inquiries and police action. “In every such incident, doctors are made scape- goats, which is grossly unfair,” they said. They reiterated demands for the immediate payment of salaries to PST and contract doctors, regulari- sation of doctors serving for years, and prompt regular recruitments through the Public Service Commission. On the health card policy, the UDF leaders said it was a highly sensitive matter but doctors had been completely excluded from policymaking. They warned that the inclusion of private hospitals without proper categorisation would burden the public exchequer and lead to the wastage of public funds. They also protested against the severe shortage of residential facil- ities for doctors and house officers, as well as the non-implementation of incentives and allowance pack- ages for doctors posted in remote areas. Announcing the protest plan, the UDF said a two-hour open strike would begin across AJK from Jan 26 and continue for two weeks. During the strike, OPDs would remain closed, while emergency services would continue. Failure to act by Feb 2 would lead to complete hospital shutdowns. The UDF leaders claimed that over 1,200 doctors from across AJK were expected to participate in the strike.

Islamabad Bar Association polls today

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: The annual elections of the Islamabad Bar Association (IBA) for the year 2026 are being held today, with polling con- tinuing from morning until evening at the judi- cial complex. More than 4,200 law- yers are expected to exercise their right to vote for six key office- bearer positions. The elections are being held for the posts of president, vice presi- dent, secretary, joint sec- retary, additional sec- retary and library sec- retary. Following the with- drawal of Hafiz Malik Mazhar Javed, the presi- dential contest has become a four-way race.

Chaudhry Naeem Ali Gujar, Raja Yasir Shakeel, Mian Arshad Javed and Shabana Rafique are now in the running for the top slot. For the position of Vice President, Irum Rashid and Bilqyas Mahmood Khattak are contesting. The secretary’s post is being contested between Raja Khawar Dhanial and Muhammad Sohail Khurshid Gujar. Sanaullah Bugti and Imran Khan Kakar are competing for the office of Joint Secretary, while Asma Bashir Bangash and Fariha Jafar Bajwa are contesting for addi- tional secretary. A one-on-one contest is underway for the post of library secretary between Darnajaf and Syeda Nazish Naqvi.

Security arrange- ments at the judicial complex have been tight- ened in view of the elec- tions. Additional secu- rity personnel have been deployed to prevent any untoward incident, while strict checking is being carried out at entry points. The entry of unrelated persons into the judicial complex has been banned to ensure a smooth polling process. Meanwhile, a projec- tion meeting was held a day earlier in connection with the Bar Association elections, which was attended by a large num- ber of lawyers. In light of the meeting, the bar association requested the judges not to pass any reverse or controversial orders dur- ing the proceedings. As a result, hearings in

FIA, police asked to ensure safety of female information seekers

By Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD, Jan 8: The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has directed the Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Inspector General of Islamabad Police (IGP) to ensure the safety and security of a female citizen who exercise their Right to Information to obtain records from the FIA and police. According to details, the Pakistan Information Commission held a hearing on an appeal filed by the female citizen. Munir Ahmed Advocate appeared on behalf of the appli- cant and informed the Commission that the appeal involved records

directly related to the safety and security of a citizen. He argued that the matter should be treated on a priority basis under Section 14(iii) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. The counsel further submitted that due to seeking the infor- mation from the FIA, his client was facing harassment and receiving life threats from some influential officers. He told the Commission that an earlier appeal had also been filed by the applicant, and in its previ- ous order, the Commission had stated that if a fresh information request and appeal were sub- mitted, the applicant would be pro- vided the required information within three days, as she was fac- ing life threats from the con-

cerned person involved in the case. Munir Ahmed Advocate informed the Commission that a second appeal had now been filed by the complainant. In the appeal, she had specifi- cally mentioned in her infor- mation request that, due to the seri- ousness of the matter, the response should be shared within three days under Section 14(iii) of the Act. During the hearing, the repre- sentative of the FIA submitted that letters had been written to the concerned quarters to obtain the required information. However, he stated that the information had not yet been received, and therefore an adjournment was sought.



OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DEPUTY COMMISSIONER THATTA

Dated: 08-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) in the 1st Phase has filed two separate claims, taluka-wise, before the undersigned for the **reconstruction and maintenance of record of rights** including **mutations** in respect of lands acquired, allotted, earmarked, or otherwise held for operational, developmental, and allied purposes of Water Supply Schemes situated in **Taluka Thatta and Taluka Mirpur Sakro** vide letter No KW&SC/IS/Dir.(L&E)/2025/97 Dated 05.1.2026. These claims have been submitted along with available documentary evidence, which are under consideration in accordance with law

SCHEDULE OF LANDS

TALUKA THATTA

Name of Deh	Survey Nos. / Land Involved
Halath	Government Land (Earmarked) 533,184,189,212,213,223,892,232,233,234,235,287,282,270,259,260,263,269,293,207,167,527,767,766,768,765,764,763,553,880,879,878,877,247,248,249,250,251,252,253,254,255,257,262,264,265,266,267,268,169,168,163 & Area 63.2 acres from Karias & Bund & 143.27 acres from erstwhile running grant. Private Land (Acquired) 283,284,285,279,277,236,237,238,239,240,241,242,243,244,245,246,254,281,271,272,515,514,517,516,273,274,275,276,278,219,220,214,215,216,217,218,221,222,224,225,226,227,228,229,230,231,166,896,497,498,513,256,258,261,280,59,160,1346,1347,161,164,165,1076,1077,1040,455,456,458,459,460,462,463,466,474,468,469,464,465,475,524,895,896,897,1040,2,467,107,554 & 343. Government Land (Earmarked) 118,124,144,165,168,169,203,204,205,206,207,208,209,211,465,466,467,468,469,470,471,472,472,474,475,476,477,478,479,480,481,482,483,484,485,486,487,488,489,490,491,492,493,494,495,496,497,498,499,500,501,502,503,5,04,505,506,507,719,508,509,510,511,512,513,514,515,516,517,518,519,520,521,522,523,119,120,141,223,428,660,427,448,439,524,525,526,527,528,529,530,531,532,533,534,535,132,166,195,210,212,86,163,160,159,167,154,142,133,117,415,362,785/2,3,786/1,2,3,4,802,751,752,762,763,764,173,578,284,568,811/1,2,567,573,574,575,576,577,810/1,2,566,778/1,779/1,2,3,4,780/2,3,97,803/1& Area 40.08 acres from Karias & bund. Private Land (Acquired) 134,135,136,316,137,138,139,140,170,171,175,172,191,196,197,198,199,201,202,173,174,187,192,193,194,200,213,215,216,214,216,217,219,222,220,121,125,104,130,131,176,185,186,188,189,190,175,280,126,311,312,313,334,33,8,339,340,323,324,441,438 & 221. Government Land (Earmarked) 121, 91,103,107,110,124,125,202,222,95,122,191,199,98,189,197,200,90,190,198 & 201. Government Land (Earmarked) 80,83,109,110,175,176,899,201,95,862,78,79,14 & 201. Private Land (Acquired) 112,203,226,654,800,849,859,897,901,905,113,173,652,755,801,850,860,898,902,202,215,653,756,848,814,894,900 & 903. Government Land (Earmarked) 301,304,799,213,303,306,302,359,630,632,649,650,651,619,620,621,622,623,675,1167,1168,360,369,1155,1154,370,748,1239,1238,371,746,749,740,741,742,743,750,751,752,753,143,211,327,633,634,635,637,636,638,639,640,647,648,173,646,726,728,727,729,785,786,787,788,789,790,791,780,781,783,782,784,801,1117,1120,1121,1122,1123,1,124,1170,1172,1173,1174,1175,1176,1156,1157,1177,1178,1179,1180,1181,1182,1153,1183,1184,1185,1186,1187,1169,1188,802,1210,638,778,779,1242,1243,830,829,1237,1236 & 138 Private Land (Acquired) 160/1,2,212,314,345,353,816,828,208,223,237,246,354,815,209,228,352,814 & 820.

Taluka Mirpur Sakro

Name of Deh	Survey Nos. / Land Involved
Gujjo	Government Land (Earmarked) 186,12,475,476,396(3,4),397(3,4),398(3,4),399(4,5),400(4,5),440(1,2),439(1,2),438,437/1,436(2,3,4),435,434,441,442(1,2),443(1,2,3,4),444,445,446,447,448,449,467,466,465,464,463,462,461(1,2,3,4),460(1,2,3,4),469(1,2,3,4),458(1,2,3,4),457(1,2,3) & Area203.03 acres from service road RCC Canal K-II. Private Land (Acquired) 6,18,7,8,9,145,146,144,10,133,134,17,25,27,28,29,125,126,127,128,129,5,11,16,21,22,25,26,27,28,29,132,139,141,2,4,1158,601,603,162,20,605,608,607,19,131 Government Land (Earmarked) Area 28.27 acres from service road RCC Canal K-II. Private Land (Acquired) 11,12,389,593(1,2,5),592(1,2,5),419,390,594/1,591(1,2),492/2 Government Land (Earmarked) 192,1196,1987,198,213,105,194,195,90,238,99,121 & Area .04 acres from village Ali Bux Shah 46,42,40,334,36,37,35,25,293,22,23,11,20,21,16,18,19, & Area 213.16 acres from service road RCC Canal K-II. Private Land (Acquired) 193,221,240,212,214,222,223,217,218,227,241,242,243,225,231,233,234,237,239,232,235,236,106,161,327,328,320,321,162,326,135,457,456,458,459,460,461,462,463,464,465,466,467,157,476,477,478,479,159,323,324,146,426,15,7,427,428,432,431,443,448,449,450,451,452,453,454,455,633,634,417,635,636,629,637,628,627,626,625,19,18,20,21,41,42,43,44,45,46,40,22,16,11,23,292,293,291,25,35,37,36,38,409,403,344,552,553,570,571,574,601,614,615,20,2,244,39,31,34,184,183,166,6,586,509,426,480,481,482,483,475,474,468,469,493,494,133,497,134,213,198,197,19,5,192,194,238,99,135,676,678,679,121,159,696,39,624,174,630,631, Government Land (Earmarked) 5,6,91,94,97,182,183,184,185,186,187,188,194,201,220,221,222,223,224,225,316,315,314,313,312,273,274,275,276,277,260,278(1,2,3,4),279(1,2,3,4),280(1,2,3),281(1,2,3,4),282,283,284,285,286,252,251,250 Area 91.30=2000*2000 acres for Quarter) , un-surveyed area 45.35 acres & Area292.23 acres from service road RCC Canal K-II. Private Land (Acquired) 84,88,89,104,14 & 15. Government Land (Earmarked) 305/2,440/1,386,439,387,388,389,380(3,4),390,361,362,363,360,359,358,357,366,356,367,355,368(1,2),354,359(1,2) & 370(1,2,3,5,6) Government Land (Earmarked) 2 & Area 177.30=15500*500 acres from zaid land Private Land (Acquired) 52,53,73,65,66,13,83 & 8 Government Land (Earmarked) Area 103.07 acres from(RD 1700 land for Quarters, Area 150.39 acres from RD 13153*500, & Area 262.08 acres from (RD 0 to 11422*1000) for Rising Main Government Land (Earmarked) 135, 75, 76, 77,137,138. Area 113.24 acres from (RD 4948*1000), area 186.12 acres un-surveyed land & Area 332.35=RD 0 to 15500*500 for Rising main. Area .16 acres from Village & Area 1.05 acres from Road. Government Land (Earmarked) 130, 22, Area 74.37 acres from RD (29000 to 35528)*500, area 13.15 acres from RD 1165*500 & area 32.03 acres from RD 2792*500 for Rising Main. Private Land (Acquired) 37, 33, 21 & 20.

Any government department, institution, agency, or individual, having any objection, claim, or interest in the subject lands, is hereby called upon to file their objections along with clear documentary evidence before the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Thatta, within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice. In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no one has any lawful objection, and the process of reconstruction of record and necessary mutations shall be proceeded with accordingly, as per law. Deputy Commissioner & Collector, District Thatta.

Sd/-
Munawar Abbas Soomro
Deputy Commissioner & Collector District Thatta

مندوبہ بالا ہاشم اختر ملک/ڈپٹی کمشنر محکمہ کے دستخط و مہارت تہا تہا کر کے اپنی دائرہ اختیار میں رکھ کر پوریشن کی کار پوریشن سے شائع کیا گیا ہے۔

KW&SC/DPR/2026/01